

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SCS-03 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-08 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07

SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, AR

SUBJ: ERP STAGES TWO LARGE RAIDS

SUMMARY: DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUG 11, ERP UNITS
ATTACKED A FABRICACIONES MILITARES PLANT AT VILLA MARIA
IN CORDOBA PROVINCE AND ATTEMPTED AN ATTACK ON THE BASE OF THE
17TH AIRBORN INFANTRY REGIMENT LOCATED IN CATAMARCA. OVER
125 ERP COMMANDOS TOOK PART IN THE TWO RAIDS. SEVERAL POLICE
AND SOLDIERS INCLUDING AN ARMY CAPT WERE WOUNDED, ONE SOLDIER
AND ONE POLICEMAN ARE KNOWN DEAD, AND AN ARMY MAJOR WAS TAKEN
HOSTAGE. SEVERAL ERP WERE REPORTED WOUNDED, 4 WERE BELIEVED
KILLED AND 11-12 WERE CAPTURED. GOA OFFICIALS BELIEVE PROS-
PECTS FOR FURTHER ARRESTS IN THE CATAMARCA INCIDENT ARE VERY
GOOD. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS
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OF AUG 11, ERP UNITS ATTACKED ARGENTINE ARMY INSTALLATIONS IN

CATAMARCA AND CORDOBA PROVINCES.

2. IN VILLA MARIA, CORDOBA PROVINCE, AN ERP UNIT OF AT LEAST 75 MEN ATTACKED A FABRICACIONES MILITARES PLANT WHICH MAKES EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER CHEMICALS FOR MINING AND INDUSTRIAL USES. BEFORE MOVING AGAINST THE PLANT A GROUP OF 15 MEN CAPTURED A HOTEL (SHICH RENTS ROOMS BY THE HOUR) NEAR THE BASE AND SET UP A COMMAND POST. FOR OVER 3 HOURS THEY DIRECTED THE OPERATION AGAINST THE MILITARY WHILE HOLDING THE HOTEL STAFF AND GUESTS CAPTIVE. SOMETIME AFTER 2 AM A HOTEL GUEST SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE GUERRILLAS AND NOTIFIED THE POLICE. THE ERP REALIZED THAT THE ALARM HAD BEEN GIVEN BUT IN AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW OF DISCIPLINE CONTINUED TO HOLD THE HOTEL AND DIRECT THEIR COMRADES IN THE ATTACK AGAINST THE BASE. THE GROUP IN THE HOTEL FOUGHT OFF A POLICE ATTACK, KILLING ONE PTLICEMAN. THEY ONLY FLED WHEN REJOINED BY THE GROUP THAT HAD ATTACKED THE BASE.

3. AT THE VILLA MARIA PLANT, THE GUERRILLAS, APPARENTLY LET IN BY SEVERAL ARMY CONSCRIPTS, ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OVER THE BASE. THE ARMY BELIEVES THE ERP WAS AFTER THE LARGE STORES OF EXPLOSIVES KEPT ON THE BASE. RESISTANCE FROM THE GARRISON PREVENTED THE GUERRILLAS FROM TAKING LARGE QUANTITIES OF EXPLOSIVES. HOWEVER THEY DID TAKE FROM 100 TO 200 AUTOMATIC WEAPTNS AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF ARMY UNIFORMS.

4. DURING THE GUN BATTLE AT THE VILLA MARIA BASE 4 SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED AND THE GUERRILLAS TOOK TWO ARMY OFFICERS CAPTIVE. ONE OFFICER, CAPT. GARCIA, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACTORY OPERATIONS, WAS LATER FOUND WITH SEVERAL GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN THE ABDOMEN, A BROKEN ARM AND LEG AND NUMEROUS CIGARETTE BURNS ON HIS BODY. SURPRISINGLY, HE IS EXPECTED TO LIVE. THE OTHER OFFICER, A MAJOR LARRABURE, REMAINS IN ERP HANDS. SEVERAL ERP WERE WOUNDED AND TWO OR THREE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GUNFIRE. ONE ERP MEMBER IDENTIFIED AS DOCTOR JOSE L. BUSCAROLI WAS KILLED WHEN HIS CAR OVERTURNED TRYING TO EVADE A POLICE BARRICADE. HIS COMPANION, STILL UNIDENTIFEID, WAS CAPTURED. FROM BLOOD STAINS FOUND IN SEVERAL AUTOS USED IN THE RAID AND LATER ABANDONED PTLICE BELIEVE SEVERAL MORE TERRORISTS WERE WOUNDED.

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5. IN CATAMARCA THE ERP ATTACK WAS BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST AN AIRBORNE INFANTRY BASE, IT NEVER GOT STARTED. A MOTORIST OBSERVED A LARGE BUS FULL OF MEN ON A ROAD NEAR THE MILITARY BASE. IN IT MEN WERE CHANGING INTO MILITARY UNIFORMS. NEAR THE BUS WAS A SMALL TRUCK LOADED WITH WEAPONS. THE MOTORIST PHONE THE POLICE WHO SENT TWO RADIO CARS TO INVESTIGATE. THE POLICE ASKED THE MEN IN THE BUS (ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 40 AND 70 IN NUMBER) TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. THE TERRORISTS

REPLIED WITH GUNFIRE AND WOUNDED SEVERAL POLICEMEN AND TOOK THEIR CARS. HOWEVER, POLICE AND TROOPS FROM THE MILITARY BASE HAD ALREADY BEEN ALERTED AND GAVE CHASE. THE AREA IS LIGHTLY POPULATED AND OFFERED FEW HIDING PLACES. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW HOURS THE AUTHORITIES REPORT THEY CAPTURED 11 OR 12 ERP, KILLED 3, AND WOUNDED SEVERAL MORE.

6. COMMENT: AN ATTACK OF THIS SIZE ON GOVT. INSTALLATIONS WILL SURELY PROVOKE A RESPONSE FROM THE GOA. WHETHER THIS TIME POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES WILL FOCUS ON TERRORISTS OR SIMPLY OR COUNTERPRODUCTIVELY ATTACK LEFTISTS IN GENERAL REMAINS TO BE SEEN. FACT THAT AUTHORITIES CAPTURED SO MANY TERRORISTS (AND AT THIS POINT EMBASSY BELIEVES REPORT CORRECT) IN CATAMARCA INCIDENT IS A HOPEFUL SIGN. INDEED ONE MILITARY SOURCE TOLD DAO MORE CAPTURES EXPECTED SHORTLY. HOWEVER, EVENTS IN CORDOBA RAID SHOW HOW FAR GOA NEEDS TO GO TO PROTECT ITSELF ADEQUATELY AGAINST ERP "SPECTACULARS" WHICH STRIKE AT PUBLIC MORALE.
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